

## Message Text

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43 42

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1655

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS MANILA 2708

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)

SUBJ: DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR VIET-NAM

DEPTO 069

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TEXT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY'S  
DEPARTURE STATEMENT FROM SAIGON.

DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR VIET NAM

MY VISIT HAS BEEN BRIEF BUT ILLUMINATING AND MOST  
ENCOURAGING. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO  
ME, MY WIFE AND OUR PARTY BY OUR VIETNAMESE HOSTS AND FOR  
THE ASSISTANCE OF AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND HIS STAFF. THEY  
HAVE MADE CERTAIN THAT OUR TIME WAS FULLY DEVOTED TO THE  
IMPORTANT MATTERS WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO OUR TWO GOVERN-  
MENTS.

I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT THIEU,  
PRIME MINISTER KHIEM, AND FOREIGN MINISTER BAC. THEY HAVE  
GIVEN ME THEIR VIEWS ON THE SITUATION. OUR DISCUSSIONS  
HAVE CONFIRMED TO ME THE WISDOM OF OUR COMMON POLICIES.  
I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH THE PATIENCE AND SKILL  
WITH WHICH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, DESPITE ALL  
DIFFICULTIES, IS SEEKING TO BRING ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED THAT THE  
RELEASE OF DETAINEES, STALLED FOR MONTHS, IS NOW AT LAST  
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NEARING AN END. THIS IS DUE TO THE INITIATIVES AND

DIPLOMATIC SKILL OF REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM. I ADMIRE THE GENEROUS OFFER OF FOREIGN MINISTER BAC TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NORTH VIET NAM TO NEGOTIATE STEP-BY-STEP NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIET NAM. I NOTE THE OFFER RECENTLY MADE IN PARIS BY THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM OF A NEW PLAN TO HOLD THE GENERAL ELECTIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. I HOPE THE OTHER SIDE WILL RECONSIDER THEIR REJECTION OF THESE PROPOSALS AND OF MEASURES PROPOSED BY THIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE CEASEFIRE MORE EFFECTIVE SO THAT A STABLE PEACE MAY AT LAST BE ACHIEVED.

IN THE MEANTIME MASSIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT CONTINUE, INCLUDING THE BUILD-UP OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AND WEAPONS IN SOUTH VIET NAM. I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM TO CONTAIN THIS THREAT. I MUST ALSO EXPRESS MY ADMIRATION FOR WHAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS ACHIEVED IN CARING FOR ITS PEOPLE AND DEVELOPING THE NATION EVEN UNDER THE STRAINS OF WAR. THERE IS EVERY REASON FOR CONFIDENCE IN THE WELFARE AND PROSPERITY OF THIS COUNTRY IF IT HAS ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN ADJUSTING TO AN ECONOMY OF PEACE.

IT IS U.S. POLICY TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND BUILD A BETTER LIFE. JUST EIGHT DAYS AGO IN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT NIXON SIGNED A PROCLAMATION ON THE OCCASION OF VIET NAM VETERANS' DAY. HE SAID THEN, "OUR PART WILL IN THE FUTURE BE UNDER THE NIXON DOCTRINE NOT TO FURNISH TROOPS, BUT WITHIN OUR CAPABILITIES AND DEPENDING ON THEIR ABILITY TO USE IT, TO FURNISH THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPLIES SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET NAM CAN HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES." THIS WE WILL DO. RUSH

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